

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please amend the abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

A fine metal particle producing mechanism ~~(22)~~ has a metal holder ~~(30)~~ for housing a body ~~(26)~~ of magnesium, a tube ~~(32)~~ for supplying an argon gas to the body ~~(26)~~ of magnesium, an argon gas flow rate controller ~~(34)~~ for controlling a rate at which the argon gas is supplied to the tube ~~(32)~~, and an argon gas heating controller ~~(36)~~ for heating the argon gas supplied to the tube ~~(32)~~ to a predetermined temperature.